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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE QUESTION OF HAITI

1. This is my second report submitted to the Security Council in pursuance of paragraph 16 of resolution 917 (1994), in which the Council decided that, until the return of the democratically elected President, it would keep under continuous review, at least on a monthly basis, all the measures in that resolution and earlier relevant resolutions, and requested the Secretary-General, having regard for the views of the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States (OAS), to report to the Council on the situation in Haiti, the implementation of the Governors Island Agreement, legislative actions including preparations for legislative elections, the full restoration of democracy in Haiti, the humanitarian situation in that country, and the effectiveness of the implementation of sanctions.

2. Since my first report dated 20 June 1994 (S/1994/742), the situation in Haiti has deteriorated further as a result of actions taken by the illegal government of Mr. Emile Jonassaint.

3. On 5 July 1994, the de facto authorities sent to the Joint United Nations-OAS Civilian Mission to Haiti (MICIVIH) a communication demanding the suspension of its activities. On 11 July 1994, they delivered to the Executive Director of MICIVIH at Port-au-Prince a decree of the "provisional President" declaring the international staff of MICIVIH "undesirable" and giving them 48 hours to leave Haitian territory. It will be recalled that by resolution 48/27 B of 8 July 1994, the General Assembly had approved the extension of the mandate of MICIVIH for one year.

4. On that same day, the Acting Secretary-General of OAS and I issued a statement condemning the illegal action taken by the de facto authorities. The Permanent Council of OAS adopted resolution CP/RES.633 (995/94) condemning and strongly repudiating this new illegal action by the de facto authorities in Haiti and holding them responsible for the security and personal safety of the members of the Mission.

5. On 12 July 1994, I addressed letters to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council informing them that, in view of the illegal action taken by the de facto authorities and the military leadership in Haiti and taking into consideration the security of MICIVIH staff,

I had decided, in consultation with the Acting Secretary-General of OAS, to evacuate the international personnel of MICIVIH from Haiti.

6. At the 3403rd meeting of the Security Council, on 12 July 1994, the President made a statement on behalf of the Council condemning the decision of the illegal de facto regime and the military leadership in Haiti to expel MICIVIH. Among other things, the Council rejected this attempt by the illegal de facto regime and the military authorities to defy the will of the international community and stated that this provocative behaviour directly affected the peace and security of the region (S/PRST/1994/32).

7. It will be recalled that, as I informed the Security Council in my first report, despite the electoral timetable, no legislative action had been taken to prepare for the legislative elections due in November 1994 (S/1994/742, para. 6). That situation remains unchanged and the Chamber of Deputies, which was due to resume its session on 13 June, has not yet been able to meet.

8. As regards sanctions, further to the measures already taken by Canada, Panama and the United States of America to strengthen them (see S/1994/742, para. 9), France announced on 12 July that it would suspend its commercial flights to and from Haiti as from 1 August 1994.

9. As a result of bilateral arrangements between the Dominican Republic and several countries, up to 88 observers with support staff and equipment are expected to be deployed in the coming weeks along the border with Haiti to help implement the measures imposed by the Security Council against Haiti.

10. The human rights situation remains worrisome. Immediately after the de facto authorities, by demanding the departure of MICIVIH, stopped the international monitoring of violations of human rights in Haiti, reports coming out of the country indicated a continuation of the abuses being committed against Haitians.

11. According to information received from the United Nations humanitarian affairs coordinator in Haiti, the humanitarian situation in the country is becoming more difficult, particularly for the poorest sectors of the population. Various indicators point to an alarming situation: a sharp increase of the all-prices index; an unemployment rate of over 50 per cent of the active population; increasing incidence of certain illnesses, such as diarrhoea, malaria, typhoid, acute respiratory infections and measles; persistent malnutrition throughout the country. An epidemic of meningo cocceminas has developed in the town of Ouanaminthe but is now under control after a successful vaccination campaign. Although a satisfactory rainy season should permit a good harvest of the main crops (maize and sorghum), rice production is expected to decrease. Lack of fuel makes the distribution of goods very difficult. Thus, the situation of the farming sector is expected to remain critical, and in most urban centres food supply will remain tight.

12. It is very difficult to assess accurately the security situation in Haiti. Reports for early July, prior to the departure of MICIVIH, indicated an increasing number of roadblocks in main avenues of Port-au-Prince and Pétionville at which heavily armed police and attachés were verifying documents

and carrying out searches. After the departure of MICIVIH, no specific threats to the remaining United Nations staff have been reported, but there have been continuing reports of Haitians being assaulted and killed. The locally recruited staff of international organizations are particularly sensitive to the continuing tension in the country.

13. There are currently 28 international personnel from the United Nations system engaged in humanitarian assistance in Haiti. They are facing serious difficulties. Apart from the tense security situation, the movement of personnel and supplies has become a major problem as a result of the cessation of commercial flights and the unavailability of commercial ships. The United Nations, in cooperation with OAS, is attempting to arrange a charter service to support humanitarian activities in Haiti, similar to the ongoing fuel management plan. The de facto authorities have held up processing of the usual facilities for duty-free imports by United Nations and other relief organizations. Restrictions relating to financial transactions and the supply of local currency are also reducing the capacity of executing agencies to meet their obligations.

14. In my report of 15 July 1994 (S/1994/828), I conveyed to the Security Council an analysis of various options by which the international community could address the continuing deterioration of the situation in Haiti.